

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Please amend Claims 1-6, 8-13, and 15-21, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for allocating non-pageable pinned kernel memory for use by time sensitive data communications processing, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing a base non-pageable pinned kernel memory block;

accepting a request for a non-pageable pinned kernel memory buffer, wherein the request comprises a specification of a buffer size for the non-pageable pinned kernel memory buffer;

determining if the base non-pageable pinned kernel memory block contains sufficient non-pageable pinned kernel memory for the non-pageable pinned kernel memory buffer; and

allocating, in response to a determination that there is insufficient non-pageable pinned kernel memory within the base non-pageable pinned kernel memory block, an additional non-pageable pinned kernel memory block that is at least as large as the buffer size and wherein the additional non-pageable pinned kernel memory block is not required to form a contiguous non-pageable pinned kernel memory section with the base non-pageable pinned kernel memory block.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the base non-pageable pinned kernel memory block, the additional non-pageable pinned kernel memory block and the non-pageable pinned kernel memory buffer are allocated by a non-pageable kernel memory allocation module.

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